REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of the presented claims are in condition for allowance.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-2, 4-9, 11-13, AND 32 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejects claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-13, and 32 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Grindrod patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,868,413, issued March 15, 2005, hereinafter referred to as "Grindrod") in view of the Sluiman et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,590,589, issued July 8, 2003, hereinafter "Sluiman"). In response, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 32 in order to more clearly recite aspects of the present invention.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the fact that Grindrod and Sluiman, singly or in any permissible combination, fail to teach or suggest the novel invention of enabling editing of a rule-based application in a runtime environment, as recited in Applicants' independent claims 1 and 32.

By contrast, the cited portions of Grindrod at most teach that business rules may be customized or edited at design time. In other words, Grindrod teaches a method for customizing or editing business rules prior to use in a runtime environment. Nothing in Grindrod teaches or suggests editing of business rules in a runtime (*i.e.*, post-execution) environment. At best, Grindrod teaches verification of a business rule in the runtime environment (Grindrod, column 19, lines 42-56). However, this verification process merely validates the business rule and reports errors; it does not make any alterations to the business rule. The actual creation and customization of the business rule is described within the context of a design time environment.

Likewise, Sluiman also fails to teach or suggest editing a rule-based application in a runtime environment, as recited in Applicants' independent claims 1 and 32. Thus, Grindrod in view of Sluiman fails to teach or suggest enabling customization of a rule-based application in a runtime environment, as recited by Applicants' claims 1 and 32. Specifically, Applicants' claims 1 and 32 positively recite:

1. A method of customizing a rule-based application, the method comprising:
designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template, the customizable element being selected by an end-user;
compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset;

parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template; and

enabling editing of said rule-based application in a runtime environment. (Emphasis added)

32. A method of customizing a rule-based application, the method comprising:

designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template, the customizable element being selected by an end-user, where the customizable element is one of: a variable, a rule, or a ruleset;

compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset;

parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template; and

editing said customizable element in said runtime environment, where said editing comprises generating a new ruleset from a customizable ruleset template, and where a pre-existing customizable rule template is associated with said new ruleset and is unchanged. (Emphasis added)

Since Grindrod and Sluiman both fail to teach or suggest enabling editing of a rule-based application in a runtime environment, Grindrod in view of Sluiman does not teach or suggest each and every element of Applicants' claims 1 and 32. Moreover, dependent claims 2, 4-9, and 11-13 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1 and recite additional features. As such, and for at least the exact same reason set forth above, the Applicants submit that claims 2, 4-9, and 11-13 are also not obvious and are allowable.

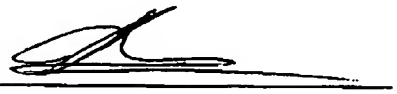
Therefore, Applicants contend that claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-13, and 32 are patentable over Grindrod in view of Sluiman and, as such, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

II. CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of the presented claims fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



December 15, 2008

Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Kin-Wah Tong, Attorney
Reg. No. 39,400
(732) 530-9404